

talents, labor and property to feed the pride and arrogance of *one man*, no better than themselves, and to the doctrine that education and the light of science were intended for the benefit of a few alone; while the *oi polloi*—the common herd—were not considered as designed or fit to be the recipients of their blessings? Such opinions and practices—common even at this day, promulgated, it is true, under more specious names and savory titles, by men of renown and occupants of commanding positions—have long held the human family in vassalage.

But notwithstanding ignorance still retains her throne and defends her purlieus, her dominions are attacked and much of her territory is conquered. An idea has gotten abroad in the world, of late years, that the gifts of a bountiful Providence are not intended for a few alone, but for the whole human family—that governments and laws are not formed for the accommodation of one, but of all men—that rulers are made for the people and not the people for the rulers, and that science and religion are as much the birth-right of the whole human family, as of Priests and Popes. The elevation of the masses is the paramount idea of the present age: and *the necessity of educating the masses of the people, especially under our form of government*, shall be the theme upon which I will submit a few thoughts for the consideration of this respected assembly.

When I speak of education, I shall use the word in its broadest and most beneficent sense; as embracing whatever is conducive to the health and vigor of the body—the activity, energy and power of the mind; and the generous and benevolent impulses of the soul. The discipline of the intellectual and moral faculties, and their equal and simultaneous development is as necessary to per-